Voice of Emmanuel

Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

www.emmanuelypsi.org facebook.com/emmanuelypsi info@emmanuelypsi.org

JULY 2025

Our collective prayer within the Sunday assembly usually takes a particular form whether you have noticed it or not. The *collect* is a particular form of prayer in which all *Prayer[s] of the Day* are written, as well as many intercessory prayers. While some, including its article on *Wikipedia*, would link use of this form with certain denominations and faith traditions, it is in fact imitation of the very conversations with God we find in scripture.

While Moses was keeping his flocks at Mt. Horeb, God appeared to him in a burning bush and addressed him. God commanded him to remove his sandals, declaring that in God's presence, this ground was holy. God then spoke God's concern, *"the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,* **8** *and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey…"* (Exodus 3:7-8). God sought to send Moses as his emissary to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The message: you need to let the Hebrews go; God will lead them away.

Yet Moses is hesitant. He worries at the thought of this confrontation with a powerful god-king. Wanting to bring authority and leverage along with demand of the imperial leader, he asked, *"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"* and *"If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"* **14** *God said to Moses, "I am who I am."*[1] *He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'"* **15** *God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord,*[2] *the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations"* (Exodus 3:13-15). With God's name, Moses can show knowledge and intimacy of his dispatching superior. While he will go representing a deity unknown to the Pharoah, he will carry the identity of the destroyer of Egypt, step by step with successive plagues.

After Pharoah's son and all other first born Egyptian children are killed by God in the 10th plague, they are released from slavery. God leads them away by pillar of cloud in daytime and pillar of fire by night. God parts the waters of the Red Sea for their escape and returns it upon the heads of Pharoah changed-mind and the Egyptian army.

If one might expect the Hebrews to be forever grateful to God for their liberation, one could hardly be more mistaken. Once in the wilderness, they seem to lose all memory of their situation and previous dire circumstances. Never mind gratitude, these freed people struggle with faithfulness of any sort. They complain obnoxiously to Moses and God at every new hurdle.

---

[1] Exodus 3:14 Or *I AM WHAT I AM* or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE.*

[2] Exodus 3:15 The word "LORD" when spelled with capital letters stands for the divine name, *YHWH,* which is here connected with the verb *hayah,* "to be"

The Hebrew camp beside Mt. Sinai while Moses climbs the mountain to encounter the LORD. He receives the 10 Commandments on stone tablets from God, but also news that with Moses away from the encampment below, the Hebrews quickly lost faith in the God they could not see and opted to create for themselves a god they could—melting down all their gold jewelry, they molded a golden calf to worship.

9 The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. 10 Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

11 But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. (Exodus 32:7-14)

Moses used his relationship, knowledge, and experience with God to argue God should alter his position and return to a previous, more gracious and caring stance. Note that Moses not only disagreed, but argued against, and in so doing, changed the mind of God so that he did not destroy the Hebrews. However, Moses himself was plenty angry with the people; he smashed the stone tablets, had the golden calf ground into a powder—poured it into a pool—and made the people drink it.

At the occasion of God giving Moses a second set of 10 commandments written on stone tablets Moses provided, God revealed more. Having already disclosed name, God now shares the nature of his character. *"The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation,[b] forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."* (Exodus 34:6-7) This scene epitomizes the arc of God's relationship with humans. God continues to reveal Godself to humans in order to build relationship with Moses, Ruth, us. God's ongoing revelation allows us to better understand the *I AM* and his/her will. These early Old Testament stories also give insight into the choice and shape of relationships God has with those he created. Whether Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, or Moses here, the bonds are two sided, robust, and *literally,* full of wrestling. Jacob wrestles with God. Abraham and Sarah doubt and laugh at God. Moses argued with and changed God's mind multiple times.

Moses uses the very description God used for himself/herself back against God. When granted God's name, Moses used it as leverage against Pharaoh and then God too. When Moses knows God by the very words, *"gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,"* Moses uses them to push back against God's anger, again interceding on behalf of the people who have lost faith yet again. After years of wandering in the dessert, when they come to the land of plenty God promised, 12 spies are sent to survey the territory and assess its inhabitants. The spies report that while the land is filled with goodness and bounty, it is yet filled with people who are strong and giant, and cannot be conquered. Among the spies, only Joshua and Caleb spoke out in favor of the land and promise in overtaking its inhabitants. Grieved at this faithlessness, God again ponders disinheriting and destroying them. However, Moses intercedes, imploring God to avoid this course, *"let the power of the LORD be great in the way that you promised when you spoke, saying, 18 'The LORD is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but by no means clearing the guilty, visiting*

the iniquity of the parents upon the children to the third and the fourth generation.' ***19*** *Forgive the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have pardoned this people, from Egypt even until now."* (Exodus 14:17-19)

Moses' use of God's name, self-description, experience with God, and knowledge of God through relationship in conversation with God is found repeated throughout scripture. And it is this example, this model of relationship and dialogue with the I AM that *the collect* emulates for prayer by the faithful.

There are typically five parts of the prayer:

1. The address, indicating the person of the Trinity to whom one is speaking
2. The acknowledgement, naming a characteristic or attribute of God to which you are appealing
3. The Petition, a singular request
4. Aspiration, the desired result of the petition being granted
5. Conclusion, including mediation by Jesus Christ and Amen.

This form expounds directly upon the relationships and conversations between humans and God found in scripture. Using this form, rather than being wrote and formulaic, draws us into robust relationships with God, who seeks us out, desires revealing himself/herself to us, and is ready for a good argument.

I invite you to look at these examples culled from the front of our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship,* and practice writing a couple collects of your own.

In time of scarce rainfall: O God, giver and sustainer of life, in this time of need send us the gift of rain, so that we may receive the fruits of the earth for our benefit and for your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

The human family: O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

Peace: Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

I leave you with a collect of my own, a prayer for all of our congregation:

God of truth, you have opened yourself to your people in every age. Give us courage to seek you and grant us eyes to see you that we may know you ever more intimately and come to imitate your love ever more perfectly, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. **Amen.**

In Christ,

Pastor Joshua Rinas

Happy Birthday to all who were born in July!
Steven Bennett, Theresa Becktell, Grace Droste, Charles Kyle, Jennifer Wenzel, Addison Wenzel, Ted Meadows, Allison Droste, David Meitzler, Joshua Ramirez, Edward Schwimmer, Cindy Walline, Monica Doerr, John Compton, Joshua Jenkins

---

July 1st

Bend and Stretch, Reach for the Stars Exercise Class
Tuesday mornings 10:30am – 11:30am. Dress comfortably, bring a water bottle to stay hydrated and a yoga mat if you have one. The cost is $5.00 per one hour class, payable at class. Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver.

Refresh Committee
The Refresh committee meets Tuesdays 11:30am – 1:00pm. If interested in joining please see Dee Fleszar.

Transition Team Meeting
The Transition Team will be meeting on Tuesdays from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

July 2nd

Bible Study
Pastor Joshua's Bible study class will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 12:30pm – 2:00pm.

July 4th – *Office Closed – Happy 4th for July*

July 6th – *Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

Birthday Sunday
Join us for a birthday coffee hour from 11:00am – 12:00pm.

July 10th

Bend and Stretch, Reach for the Stars Exercise Class
Thursday mornings 9:30am – 10:30am. Dress comfortably, bring a water bottle to stay hydrated and a yoga mat if you have one. The cost is $5.00 per one hour class, payable at class. Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver.

July 12th

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome
The Washtenaw Refugee Welcome group meets every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00am – 12:00pm.

July 13th – *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

History in Maps
The Graeco-Roman World, and the Development of Christianity, from Alexander to Constantine.

Schedule for eleven 45-minute presentations, using the Lounge, and the computer projection equipment. Class will start July 13th at 11:30 AM, following church services, in the lounge.

There will be occasional printed and digital handouts.

July 15th

Let's Go Out to Eat!
You are invited for a social event for people to get to know each other better, invite a friend or two! Tuesday, July 15th at 5pm at Aubree's in Depot Town – located at 39 E. Cross St. Ypsilanti, MI.

July 20th – *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

Council Meeting
The Church Council meets on the third Sunday of every month following Worship Services.

July 21st

Newsletter Deadline
If you have something for the newsletter, please get it into the office. Thank you.

Ways to Give: Giving can be done online by clicking here. Or mail checks to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

PayPal: Select payment type "Friends and Family" using emmanuelypsi@gmail.com. Please indicate account (general fund, flowers, memorials, etc.) where it says add message.

Mobile App: Download the Vanco Payments Mobile app for free from Google Play. In the app, select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

2025 Altar Flower Sign-up
The 2025 Altar flower sign-up has been put up on the bulletin board outside the office. **Please sign-up for your date and turn in the form and monies in the offering plate or office mailbox.** Thank you!

Assisting Ministers Needed!
Sign up on the sheet outside the office or call the office; Or through sign-up genius. Assisting Ministers - Click here or Scan QR code

SOCIAL CONCERNS **MAY NUMBERS**

Clothes Closet
75 families representing 265 people were served by the Clothes Closet in May. Donations are accepted Wednesday mornings from 9-10:30a or left in the Clothes Closet bin in the Gathering Area.

Food Pantry
211 families representing 551 individuals visited 346 times for a total of 897 people that were served in May. The Food Pantry received 10,641 pounds of food valued at, $17,296.87 from Food Gatherers grant funding and USDA free food. May average attendance was just under 87 families per week.

Emmanuel has paid nothing out of its Food Pantry funds for food from Food Gatherers in fiscal year 2025. And Food Gatherers has notified Emmanuel that it will renew Emmanuel's Carrot Credit Grant funding of $18,000 for fiscal year 2026 (which begins July 1, 2025) If you are interested in helping Food Gatherers support the 140 county agencies (including Emmanuel's Food Pantry) that depend on Food Gatherers, go to http://www.foodgatherers.org and click on "Donate Now".

Quilting
Quilting will start again Wednesday September 3. Sunday September 7, in conjunction with God's Hands, Our Work Sunday, there will be a Blessing of the Quilts before the quilts are distributed.

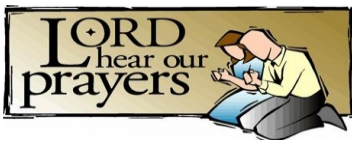
If you need medical equipment, there is a medical loan closet at the Ypsilanti Township Community Center, 2025 E. Clark Rd., 734-544-8300. Information on other local medical loan closets can be found at http://www.loanclosets.org

Did you know? For every 10 bags of donations to the Clothes Closet, about 1.5 bags are mens clothes, half a bag are kids clothes and 8 bags are womens clothes. **The Clothes Closet is always in need of Mens and kids clothing, no matter the season.** Time to clean out closets, ask your friends for their donations. Bring them in anytime and drop them in the donation bin in the Gathering area!

In conjunction with the Blessing of the Quilts on September 7, please donate a gently used blanket to the Clothes Closet. Blankets will be given out to Clothes Closet clients.

The Giving Tree will be back starting July 27 through August 31, collecting school supplies. Gently used backpacks, pencils, paper, crayons, glue, whatever school supply you want to donate for all school ages. Donations will be given to local schools.

Prayers requested for:



John, Mary, Vicki, Ruth, Steve, Marilynn, Barb, Krista, Dawn, Gary, Elizabeth, Cheryl, and John.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 11:30am—1pm Refresh Committee 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery 5:30pm-7:30pm Transition Team Mtg.	**2** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm-9pm AA Meeting Steven Bennett	**3**	**4 OFFICE CLOSED** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting	**5**
6 PENTECOST 4 10am Worship 11am Birthday Coffee Hr 6pm Scouts	**7** Theresa Becktell	**8** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 11:30am—1pm Refresh Committee 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery 5:30pm-7:30pm Transition Team Mtg.	**9** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm-9pm AA Meeting	**10** 9am Class of '53 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class	**11** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting	**12** 10am-12pm Washtenaw Refugee Grace Droste

13 PENTECOST 5 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am History in Maps Class 6pm Scouts	**14** Charles Kyle Jennifer Wenzel	**15** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 11:30am—1pm Refresh Committee 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery 5:30pm-7:30pm Transition Team Mtg. Let's Go Out to Eat! 5pm @Aubree's	**16** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm—9pm AA Mtg. Addison Wenzel	**17** 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class	**18** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting Ted Meadows	**19**
20 PENTECOST 6 10am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am History in Maps Class COUNCIL MEETING 6pm Scouts	**21** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	**22** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 11:30am—1pm Refresh Committee 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery 5:30pm-7:30pm Transition Team Mtg.	**23** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm—9pm AA Mtg. Allison Droste	**24** 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class	**25** 6pm –8pm NA Meeting David Meitzler Joshua Ramirez Edward Schwimmer	**26**
27 PENTECOST 7 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am History in Maps Class 6pm Scouts Cindy Walline	**28**	**29** 10:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 11:30am—1pm Refresh Committee 1pm Food Gatherers Delivery 5:30pm-7:30pm Transition Team Mtg.	**30** 9am—10:30am Clothes Closet 12:30-2:00pm Bible Study Class 3pm-5pm Food Pantry 8pm—9pm AA Mtg. Monica Doerr	**31** 9:30am Reach for the Stars Exercise Class John Compton Joshua Jenkins		

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10AM IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM

** Birthdays listed at the bottom of each day*